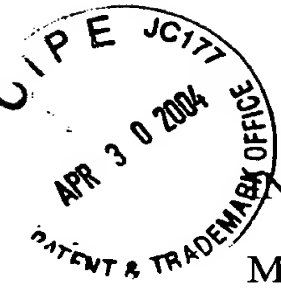


DOCKET NO: 204060US0PCT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

MASAHIDE SATO, ET AL.

SERIAL NO: 09/763,864

FILED: MAY 23, 2001

FOR: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING
FERMENTATION PRODUCT

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: EXAMINER: SHERRER, C. E.

:

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1761

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AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated December 31, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.